

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Burma/Thailand/China	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Chinese Nationalist and Burmese Forces in the Kengtung Area 25X1C	DATE DISTR.	18 June 1954
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Chinese Nationalist troops are now out of the Mong Hsat, Mong Hang (N 20-03, E 98-57) and Mong Ton (N 20-16, E 98-54) valleys. They have taken up positions in the jungles around these areas, since they do not want to expose themselves to Burmese bombings while flying conditions are still good. On 27 April 1954, six Burmese planes bombed and machine-gunned the Doi ridge, between Mong Fang and the Burma border. The bombing and strafing occurred about three miles south of the Chinese Nationalist positions.
2. Lahu refugees estimate that there are about 5,000 Chinese Nationalist soldiers in the jungles around Mong Hsat, about a half-day's journey from the Salween River ferry at Ta Hsa La (N 20-27, E 98-40). Chinese Nationalist forces from the south¹ and from other parts of Kengtung State are coming into this area. A Lahu chief states he was told by a Chinese Nationalist officer that the Chinese Nationalists plan, when the rains begin² and troop movements are difficult, to seize the Ta Hsa La Ferry and stop reinforcements for the Burmese troops at Mong Hsat. After the Ferry has been seized, the Chinese Nationalist main force will encircle Mong Hsat and wipe out the troops stationed there.
3. There are approximately 500 Burmese troops in the Mong Hsat valley. They are mostly Chins with some Kachins and Burmese.
4. The Burmese troops are forcing every able-bodied male in the area to work on the Mong Hsat airstrip which is undergoing full scale repair work. The men are engaged in carrying supplies from the Salween ferry to Mong Hsat and in building barracks as well as repairing the field. Only women are allowed to work on the farms. All Chinese Nationalist buildings at the field were burned during March 1954.
5. Several thousand Chinese women and children who are families of Chinese Nationalist troops have fled into the jungles of Doi Ang Ka (N 18-35, E 98-28). Burmese

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troops have followed these refugees into Thai territory on two different occasions. The Chinese Nationalist troops have put up road blocks on the trails leading to Doi Ang Ka. The Burmese have made no further attempts to follow the refugees.

6. Suh Ta Shaw Ye, brother of Suh Ping Ling,³ is in the Mong Pawk (N 22-00, E 99-19) area near the Yunnan border. He plans to take 1,000 of his men and join the Chinese Communists in Lantsang District.

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Comments

1. Probably from the Karen National Defense Organization (KNDO) areas.
2. Approximately mid-June.

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3. Comment. According to a report dated November 1953, Suh Ping Ling, a Yunnanese leader, was one of the strongest opponents of the Chinese Communists in Lantsang. He fled from Nu Nai when it was burned in 1948. He was arrested by the Burmese but later escaped and joined the Chinese Nationalist forces in Burma. A report dated February 1954 stated that Suh Ping Ling, who went to Taiwan in November 1953, had returned to Mong Pawk and was the commander of 2,000 Chinese Nationalist troops.